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09/771,883	01/30/2001	Masaaki Ogura	202561US2	2675

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EXAMINER

HUNTSINGER, PETER K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 5/30/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues on page 3 of the response in essence that:

Hashimoto et al. does not teach a separate internal parameter request signal containing the power-supplied selection signal.

- a. Hashimoto et al. disclose an internal parameter request signal (command code 80 H, col. 6, lines 52-60) containing a power-supplied selection signal (predetermined command code, col. 6, lines 52-60). The claim language does not include the limitation of the internal parameter request signal being separate from the power-supplied selection signal. Further, it is impossible for the internal parameter request signal to be both a separate signal from the power-supplied selection signal and also contain the power-supplied selection signal.

The applicant argues on page 4 of the response in essence that:

Kimura does not teach a display unit that indicates which portions of the image forming device are set as being power-supplied portions.

- b. Kimura discloses indicating the power mode of an image forming device (power save mode indicating means 123, col. 6, lines 50-53). Okazawa discloses multiple power-supplied modes of the image forming device (col. 4,

lines 61-65). It would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to indicate multiple power saving modes with the method of displaying a power saving mode taught by Kimura. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the user to view and clearly know the current power save mode of the image forming device.

The applicant argues on page 5 of the response in essence that:

Okazawa does not teach that the selection signal is sent after reading or updating of internal parameters of the image forming device is completed.

c. Okazawa discloses reading or updating of internal parameter of the image forming device (col. 6-7, lines 64-67, 1-7). The selection signal is sent afterwards (col. 7, lines 8-16).

The applicant argues on page 5 of the response in essence that:

Okazawa does not teach inhibiting power to all portions of the image forming device.

d. Hashimoto et al. disclose the portions of the image forming device (col. 6, lines 52-60). Okazawa discloses inhibiting power to all portions of an image forming device (col. 7, lines 55-59).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 10-12, 15-19, and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okazawa Patent 6,459,496 and Hashimoto et al. Patent 5,828,462.

Referring to claims 1, 15, and 24, Okazawa discloses an image forming device management system in which a data communication device (interface section 150) is connected to one or a plurality of image forming devices (printing apparatus main body 100-1 and printing apparatus main body 100-2) and a central control system (host computer 130-1) is connected to the data communication device via a communication network and provides a remote maintenance of the one or the plurality of image forming devices through the communication network and the data communication device (col. 2, lines 4-8), the image forming device management system comprising the one or the plurality of image forming devices (printing apparatus main body 100-1 and printing apparatus main body 100-2), the data communication device (interface section 150), and the central control system (host computer 130-1), wherein each image forming device comprises a power-source on/off control unit (input/output processor 111) automatically turning on, when a communication request signal sent by the data communication device is received by the image forming device, a supplying of a power from a main power source to the image forming device concerned (col. 4, lines 61-65),

Art Unit: 2625

and the power-source on/off control unit automatically turning off the supplying of the power from the main power source to the image forming device after a communication between the data communication device and the image forming device ends (col. 7, lines 10-20). Okazawa does not expressly disclose a power supplied portion setting unit. Hashimoto et al. disclose a data communication device comprising a power-supplied portion selection unit transmitting a power-supplied portion selection signal to the image forming device concerned, so that any of a plurality of portions of the image forming device concerned are selected, in advance, in accordance with the power-supplied portion selection signal as being the power-supplied portions (Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 52-60), and the power-source on/off control unit of the image forming device concerned automatically turning on, the supplying of the power from the main power source to only the power-supplied portions of the image forming device concerned, for which power to the power-supplied portions was previously turned off (Fig. 11, col. 7, lines 54-67), wherein the power-supplied portion selection unit is configured to contain the power-supplied portion selection signal in an internal parameter request signal with respect to the image forming device concerned, and transmit the internal parameter request signal, containing the power-supplied portion selection signal, to the image forming device concerned, so that the image forming device concerned simultaneously receives both the internal parameter request signal and the power-supplied portion selection signal (Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 52-60). Okazawa and Hashimoto et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of power-saving modes for printing systems. At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person

Art Unit: 2625

of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate multiple power saving modes into the image forming device system of Okazawa. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it would decrease the power usage in an image forming device system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hashimoto et al. with Okazawa to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1, 15, and 24.

Referring to claims 2 and 16, Okazawa discloses the power-source on/off control unit of each image forming device is configured to automatically turn off the supplying of the power when the image forming device satisfies predetermined power-off conditions after the end of the communication between the data communication device and the image forming device (col. 7, lines 10-20).

Referring to claims 3 and 17, Okazawa discloses the power-source on/off control unit of each image forming device is configured such that the power-source on/off control unit determines that the image forming device satisfies power-off conditions, when a given time period has elapsed after the end of the communication, and that the power-source on/off control unit automatically turns off the supplying of the power in accordance with the determination (col. 7, lines 10-20).

Referring to claims 4 and 18, Okazawa discloses the power-source on/off control unit of each image forming device is configured such that the power-source on/off control unit determines that the image forming device satisfies power-off conditions, when a given time period has elapsed after the end of the communication with the image forming device staying in an inactive condition, and that the power-source on/off

control unit automatically turns off the supplying of the power in accordance with the determination (col. 7, lines 10-20).

Referring to claims 5 and 19, Okazawa discloses each image forming device further comprises a signal send-back unit sending, during a period from a time the supplying of the power started by the power-source on/off control unit to a time an initialization of the image forming device ends, one of an idle-state signal and an inaccessibility signal to the data communication device (S14, col. 7, lines 60-67) in response to an inquiry signal from the data communication device (S21, col.8, lines 35-36).

Referring to claim 10, Okazawa discloses a data communication device (interface section 150) for use in an image forming device management system, the data communication device being connected to one or a plurality of image forming devices (printing apparatus main body 100-1 and printing apparatus main body 100-2) and a central control system (host computer 130-1) being connected to the data communication device via a communication network and providing a remote maintenance of the one or the plurality of image forming devices through the communication network and the data communication device (col. 2, lines 4-8), the data communication device comprising a request signal transmission unit transmitting a communication request signal to the image forming device concerned among the one or the plurality of image forming devices, and the image forming device concerned automatically turning on, when the request signal is received by the image forming device concerned, a supplying of a power from a main power source to the image

Art Unit: 2625

forming device concerned (col. 4, lines 61-65). Okazawa does not expressly disclose a power supplied portion setting unit. Hashimoto et al. disclose a data communication device comprising a power-supplied portion selection unit transmitting a power-supplied portion selection signal to the image forming device concerned, so that any of a plurality of portions of the image forming device concerned are selected, in advance, in accordance with the power-supplied portion selection signal as being the power-supplied portions (Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 52-60), and the power-source on/off control unit of the image forming device concerned automatically turning on, the supplying of the power from the main power source to only the power-supplied portions of the image forming device concerned, for which power to the power-supplied portions was previously turned off (Fig. 11, col. 7, lines 54-67), wherein the power-supplied portion selection unit is configured to contain the power-supplied portion selection signal in an internal parameter request signal with respect to the image forming device concerned, and transmit the internal parameter request signal, containing the power-supplied portion selection signal, to the image forming device concerned, so that the image forming device concerned simultaneously receives both the internal parameter request signal and the power-supplied portion selection signal (Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 52-60).

Okazawa and Hashimoto et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of power-saving modes for printing systems. At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate multiple power saving modes into the image forming device system of Okazawa. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it would decrease the power

usage in an image forming device system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hashimoto et al. with Okazawa to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Referring to claim 11, Okazawa discloses the request signal transmission unit transmits a selecting signal, which designates the image forming device concerned as a destination device, to the one or the plurality of image forming devices (S35, col. 10, lines 25-32).

Referring to claim 12, Okazawa discloses the data communication device comprises an inquiry signal transmission unit that transmits an inquiry signal (S21, col.8, lines 35-36) to the image forming device concerned when one of an idle-state signal and an inaccessibility signal (S14, col. 7, lines 60-67) that is to be sent by the image forming device concerned during a period from a time the image forming device concerned starts the supplying of the power to a time an initialization of the image forming device concerned ends, is not received by the data communication device.

Referring to claims 25-28, Okazawa discloses after reading or updating of internal parameters of the image forming device is completed, a second signal is transmitted for the data communication device to the image forming device concerned so that the supplying of the power from the main power source to all the portions of the image forming device concerned is forcefully inhibited (col. 2, lines 27-31). Hashimoto et al. disclose a power-supplied portion selection signal (Fig. 7, col. 6, lines 52-60).

4. Claims 8 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okazawa Patent 6,459,496 and Hashimoto et al. Patent 5,828,462, as applied to claims 1 and 20 above, and further in view of Kimura Patent 6,334,719.

Referring to claims 8 and 22, Okazawa discloses a power-supplied portion setting unit (input/output processor 111) setting, in advance, any of a plurality of portions of the image forming device as being power-supplied portions to which the power from the main power source is to be supplied, such that the power-source on/off control unit automatically turns on, when the communication request signal is received by the image forming device, the supplying of the power from the main power source to only the power-supplied portions of the image forming device (col. 4, lines 61-65).

Okazawa do not expressly disclose a power-supplied portion display unit. Kimura discloses each image forming device further comprises a power-supplied portion display unit (power save mode indicating means 123) displaying, on an operation/display portion, power-supplied portion information that indicates which of the portions of the image forming device are set as being the power-supplied portions. (col. 6, lines 50-53)

Okazawa and Kimura are combinable because they are from the same field of power saving printing systems. At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to display the multiple power save modes disclosed by Okazawa with the indicating means disclosed by Kimura. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this to allow the user to view and clearly know the current power save mode of the image forming device. Therefore, it would

have been obvious to combine Kimura with Okazawa to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1 and 20.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

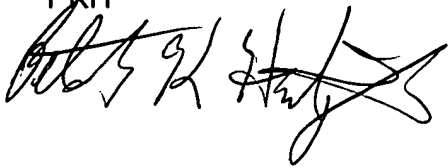
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter K. Huntsinger whose telephone number is (571)272-7435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on (571)272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PKH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PKH' followed by a stylized flourish.A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'KAWilliams'.

**KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**